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Post-Construction Report - DOCKET NO. 456 – Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 33 Keegan Road, Plymouth, Connecticut.

Site Approvals

On July 9, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) for the construction maintenance, and operation of a 140-foot monopole telecommunications facility located at 33 Keegan Road in Plymouth. The Development and Management (D&M) Plan was approved on January 7, 2016. The new tower facility replaced an existing Verizon tower facility located at 42 South Street in Plymouth that would be removed due to the expiration and non-renewal of a lease agreement.

The site property consists of a 12.4-acre wooded parcel on the east side of Keegan Road. The property owner's residence is located on an abutting property to the south.

Construction commenced in Spring 2016, and was completed in December 2017. Verizon retained All Points Technology (APT) as an environmental compliance monitor for the Project due to the potential presence of NDDB listed species (bird, turtle, bat). The final APT report was filed with the Council on July 31, 2017. No species were found during APT's on-site inspections. Contractor informational signs indicating the potential for these species are still posted in a few locations at the site.

Verizon installed 12 exterior platform-mounted panel antennas at a centerline height of 140 feet above ground level (agl).

T-Mobile installed 9 platform-mounted panel antennas at a centerline height of 130 feet agl in December 2016. No other telecommunication carriers are located at the facility at this time.

Site Inspection

Council staff conducted a post-construction inspection of the site on June 12, 2019.

The site consists of a 140-foot monopole within a 50-foot by 50-foot gravel compound enclosed by an eight-foot high chain link fence, with 3 strands of barbed wire at the top. The D&M Plan indicated the tower and foundation would be capable of supporting a 20-foot extension, if needed by additional carriers.

Verizon installed an equipment shelter that resembles a small shed within the compound. One T-Mobile radio cabinet is located on a concrete pad within the compound. A utility/meter board and a transformer are located along the west compound fence. Underground utilities extend to the site from Keegan Road.

Site access required the construction of a new 12-foot wide, 465-foot long access drive extending up a steep, 20-degree slope from Keegan Road. The lower portion of the driveway along the steep grade was paved for a distance of approximately 130 feet to control washouts, with the remaining 335 feet of access drive composed of gravel. The access road construction is slightly different than the D&M Plan which specified a paved 25-foot apron followed by a geo-grid on the steep slope.

Stormwater along the access drive is controlled by a gravel swale that leads downslope to a new catch basin at the access drive entrance on Keegan Road. A second new catch basin was installed a short distance south of the access drive. Both of the new catch basins are connected to an existing catch basin near the driveway to the landowner's residence.

At the time of the inspection, the catch basin at the base of the access drive was completely covered compressed leaves, reducing its ability to collect runoff. The swales along the access drive had varying amount of accumulated leaves. Construction silt fence/silt soxx remains downslope of the steep portion of the access drive and in an old wood road area southwest of the compound.

Landscaping, consisting of two rows of evergreens, was installed along to the south and west sides of the compound, presumably to screen the compound from the nearby landowner's residence.

Views of the facility are along several roads to the east and west of the site. A residential area along South Street 0.2 mile to the southwest has the most pronounced views since it is on a high ridge, lessening the effect of forest buffers. Other views in the surrounding area are mainly limited to brief openings in the intervening forest canopy such as a field area on the landowner's abutting property, and across fields and a pond along Todd Hollow Road east of the site.

The physical conditions observed during the site inspection conform to the approved D&M Plan. No construction-related issues were evident at the time of the inspection with the exception of remaining siltation barriers and the heavy accumulation of leaves on top of the access road catch basin. Staff notified Verizon's representative regarding these maintenance issues. Verizon submitted correspondence to the Council on July 2, 2019 indicating that the identified maintenance issues were addressed.

VICINITY MAP

SCALE: 1" = 1000'



Site Location – 33 Keegan Road, Plymouth



Tower & Compound



Compound area



Access Drive w/Swale



Lower access drive & Stonework



View from South Street area



View from Todd Hollow Road area

